



SOFTBALL *Technical Guidelines & Ground Rules*

- I. NAME OF COMPETITION**- The Biggest sporting event in the country shall be known as PALARONG PAMBANSA 2019. It will be organized by the Department of Education. It will serve as the culminating activity of the P.E. Program and aims to discover potential athletes.
- II. DATE AND VENUE**- the tournament will be held from April 27- May 4, 2019 which will be hosted by Davao City.
- III. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS AND COACHES** - The sole judge of a participant's eligibility totally lays within the judgment of screening committee regarding eligibility of student-athletes and coaches must be address to the screening committee. Chaperons will now be allowed to act as assistant coaches and permitted to direct players on the field provided that the identified Chaperon/Assistant Coach should be FEMALE will also be required to submit documents for screening.
- IV. RULES THAT WILL GOVERN THE TOURNAMENT**- The rules and regulation that will govern the tournament will be the World Baseball Softball Confederation-SOFTBALL 2018-2021 Rules (formerly known as International Softball Federation (ISF) Rule Book). With some modification stated in this ground rules.
- V. THE GAME OF SOFTBALL FOR BOTH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SHOULD BE PLAYED FOR:**
- Seven (7) innings for the elimination round up to the championship games with the application of the WBSC-SOFTBALL 2018-2021 Runs Ahead Rule.
- (Mercy Rule). A run ahead "Mercy Rule" shall be used in the tournament: 15 Runs after the 3 innings, 10 after the 4 innings and 7 after 5 innings.
 - The tie breaker rule will be applied after the seventh (7) innings games.
- VI. RULE OF IMMEDIATE SUCCESSION SHALL BE OBSERVED**. Only the first game in the morning and afternoon shall be given fixed time. Games that follows shall start shortly after the end of the preceding game.
- VII. DEFAULT**- all teams shall be given fifteen (15) minutes grace period before being declared in-default.
- VIII. COMPOSITION OF TEAM**- Each participating team shall consist of 12 players, 1 head coach, 2 assistant coach. All of which shall be allowed to direct and coach the players during the progress of the game but only the head coach will be given the sole authority to represent the teams during appeals or discussion. They must also submit necessary documents required by the screening committee
- 1st Offense- Warning
 - 2nd Offense- Ejection of the HEAD COACH.
 - 3rd offense- forfeiture of the game in favor of the opponent.
- Note:** Only the official coach and assistant coaches may act as base coaches. Player will not be allowed to act as base coaches due to safety reason. Coaches should be wearing the same uniform as the players or same uniform as the other coaches.
- IX. BORROWING/ EXCHANGING OF UNIFORM** shall NOT be allowed. Anybody caught using another's number during the progress of the game shall be put out and be ejected from the game as well as the Head Coach listed in the line-up.

X. CONFERENCES

- a. **DEFENSIVE CHARGE CONFERENCE**- three (3) calls to confer in the whole duration of the game which the coach may opt to use in an inning.
Penalty: Removal of the pitcher from the pitching position.
- b. **OFFENSIVE CHARGE CONFERENCE**- only one (1) call to confer in every inning shall be allowed.
Penalty: Ejection of the coach or the players who insisted the conference.

XI. 2018-2021 pitching rules will be enforced. Jump Pitch is legal.

XII. INTENTIONAL WALK- If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally it is sufficient to notify the plate umpire of the intent so as not to go through the motion of pitching. In this case, the ball is dead and runners cannot advance unless forced.

XIII. WARM-UP PITCHES- in the first inning or when the pitcher relieves another, to deliver not more than 5 warm up pitches. In each subsequent innings, pitchers will be given 3 warm up pitches.

XIV. BATS- only the ISF certified bats shall be allowed. Playing venues will be provided with ISF certified Bats that can be used by the participating teams.

XV. HELMETS are mandatory on offense for batters, on deck batters, batter runners and, runners. It is advised that teams use the Face Mask with a built in face guard. DELIBERATE REMOVAL OF THE BATTING HELMET of any runner during a live ball play shall cause the violator to be declared out immediately. The ball remains alive.

XVI. Warm up catchers must wear proper gear or at least the Catcher's mask. No coach shall be allowed to warm up the pitcher during the game without proper gear.

XVII. THE SAFETY BASE or the **DOUBLE BAG SYSTEM AT FIRST**- The safety base or the double bag system shall be used in the tournament as part of the ISF initiative to prevent possible injuries due to collision at first base. The coaches shall be briefed regarding this during the Solidarity Meeting.

XVIII. RESOLUTION OF TIES-

- a. Two way ties- win over the other- same group.
- b. Three way tie- refer to the rule book (Article 8.02 a, b, c and d)

XIX. DISPUTED CALL- when a coach or a player of either team questioned the judgment of the umpire:

- a. A warning shall be given for the first offense.
- b. Shall be ejected from the game on the second offense.

XX. APPEAL- the proper way of making appeal shall be observed. Shouting at the umpire shall NOT be allowed.

- a. Warning shall be given for the first shouting offense.
- b. Ejection from the game for the second shouting offense.

XXI. PROTEST- All protest must be settled on the playing field. No protest will be considered after the completion of the game or on the judgment call. Protest on mis-interpretation on the rule may be considered provided it was done properly. Protest on Eligibility will be accepted and noted on the score sheets and shall be elevated to the National Screening Committee for judgement.

XXII. TEAM PRACTICE- teams scheduled to play will be given five minutes' practice on the diamond before the game only on their first scheduled game in the tournament.

XXIII. BATTING LINE UP- must be submitted at least 30 minutes before the scheduled time. No Batting Line up No Warm Up Ball.

XXIV. Coaches and players who have been EJECTED from the game due to un-sportsman like conduct will be suspended 1 game right after the game where they have been ejected from.

XXV. Tournament Format: the teams will be divided to four teams. The ranking of the previous Palaro will be the basis of distributing the teams in accordance with the WBSC Rule Article 7 Section 3. Top 2 teams qualifies in the Quarter Final Knocked Out Round following the format bellow. Winners will advance to the Semi-Final Round (following the format below) which will determine who will play in the Final (Battle for Third Place) and Grand Final Round (Championship Game).

A. GROUPING / BRACKET

Teams will be distributed in 4 Groups/Brackets following the International Rule.

A	B	C	D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
			17

B. QUARTER FINAL ROUND

Quarter Final Game 1	A 1	VS	D1
Quarter Final Game 2	D1	VS	D2
Quarter Final Game 3	B1	VS	C2
Quarter Final Game 4	C1	VS	B1

C. SEMI FINAL ROUND

SFG 1	W QFG 2	VS	W QFG 3
SFG 2	W QFG 1	VS	W QFG 4

D. FINAL AND GRAND FINALS OR BATTLE FOR BRONZE AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

Battle for 3 rd Place or Bronze Medal Game			
FINAL	L SFG 1	VS	L SFG 2

Championship Game or Gold Medal Game			
GRAND FINALS	W SFG 1	VS	W SFG 2

XXVI. DETERMINATION OF RANKING

Losing team in the Quarter Finals will be ranked 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th place (the number of runs allowed will determine their Placement (Lowest Run Allowed))

Ranking 9-17th will be determined by the win loss and Runs Allowed and if needed to break a tie after all the rules on breaking ties between teams under WBSC-SOFTBALL Rules has been exhausted. a single flip of coin will be used to sort the teams.

RANKING	A	B	C	D
	1	2	3	4
LOSER IN THE QUARTER FINALS	8	7	6	5
3 RD IN THE GROUP	9	10	11	12
4 TH IN THE GROUP	16	15	14	13
				17

